

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 18, and 20 are currently pending in the present application.

In the pending office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 5-8 over previously cited U.S. Patent No. 6,773,010 (“Zucchi et al.”) despite having previously allowed the claims over the reference. We believe the Examiner, however, is currently misreading the recitations of the claims. Thus, the applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present rejection for the following reasons.

In particular, the Examiner opines that all surfaces, with the possible exception of transparent surface, are “reflective.” However, applicants note that even transparent surfaces can provide some reflection, for example, the glare off of a clear window is a reflection. But, the applicants did not use the term reflective or reflection to mean any reflective surface. Rather, the applicants defined a light reflective surface to mean a surface that reflects light similar to a mirror or bike reflector. In other words, light reflective surface is defined to mean a highly reflective surface.

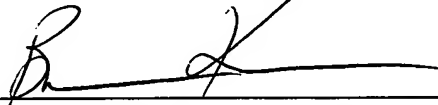
However, to expedite the prosecution of the present application, the applicant has amended claims 1 and 18 to include the phrase “highly.” Zucchi et al. discloses a surface, but does not disclose a surface that is any more capable of reflecting light than any surface associated with a tabletop game. Thus, Zucchi et al. does not disclose a “highly light reflective surface” or “highly reflective layer” as recited by the claims. Thus, claims 1-3, 5-8, 18, and 20 are patentably distinct from Zucchi et al. The applicants do not believe the amendment is a narrowing amendment made for reasons of patentability because the applicants had defined the term “light reflective material” to mean a highly light reflective material. Thus, the inclusion of the term highly does not alter the scope of the claim in the applicants opinion.

Regarding the newly discovered reference to United States Patent No. 5,242,164 (“Nicoll”), the reference does not disclose a reflective surface apart from the fact that all surfaces reflect some light. Thus, Nicoll does not cure the defect of Zucchi et al. noted above. Thus, claims 1 and 18 are patentably distinct from Zucchi et al., Nicoll, or any reasonable combination thereof. Claims 2, 3, 5-18, 20, 23, and 24 depend from claims 1 or 18 and, at least by virtue of the dependency, are patentably distinct from the references.

In light of the above, it is believed that Claims 1-3, 5-8, 18, and 20 overcome the Examiner's rejections and objections, and are allowable over the prior art of record. Such allowance is respectfully requested. Please contact the undersigned at (303) 295-8170 if any additional information is needed.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 08-2623. Should any extensions of time not accounted for be required, consider this a petition therefore and charge the associated fee to Deposit Account No. 08-2623.

Respectfully submitted,



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